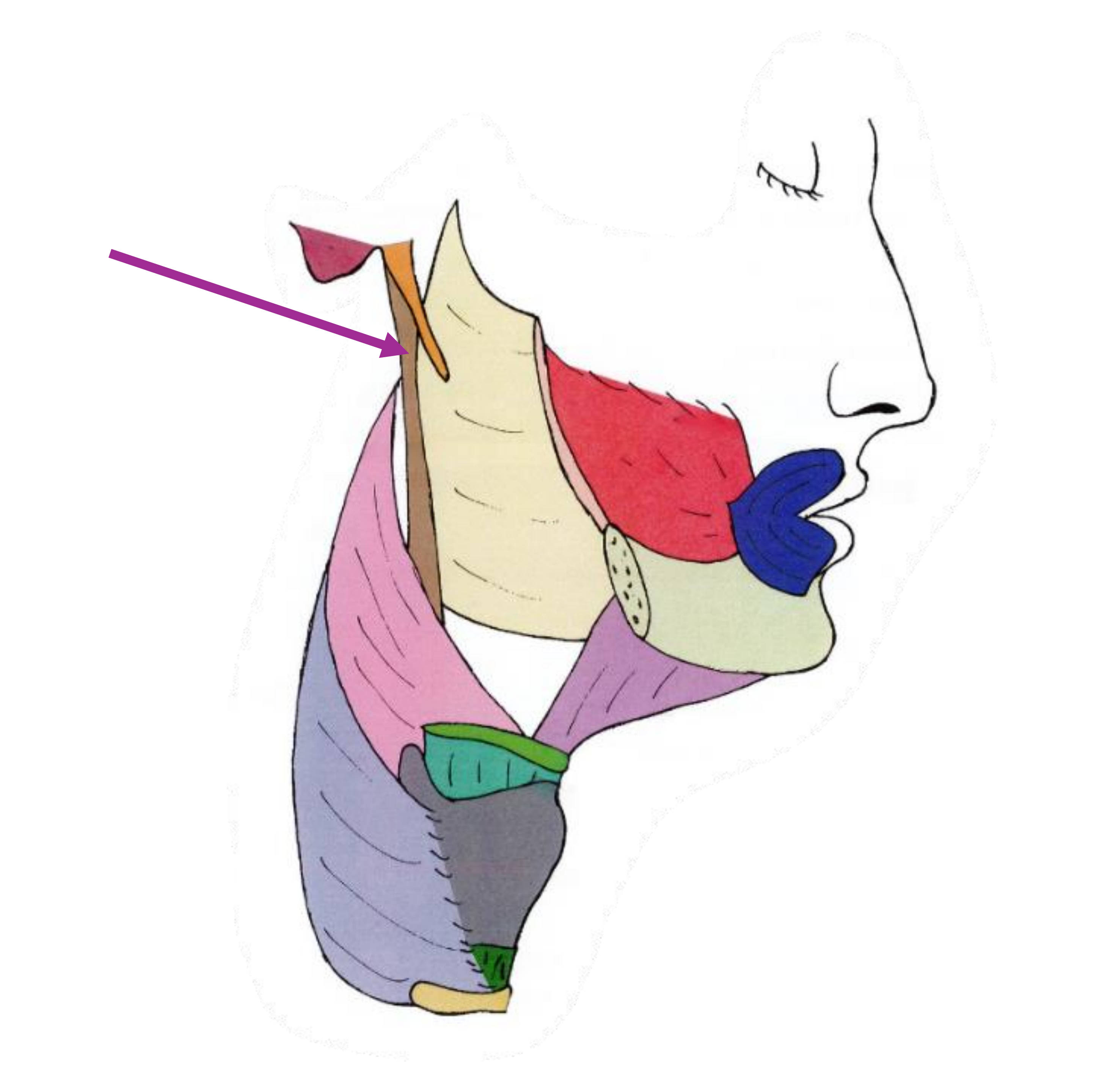
Muscles of the Pharynx



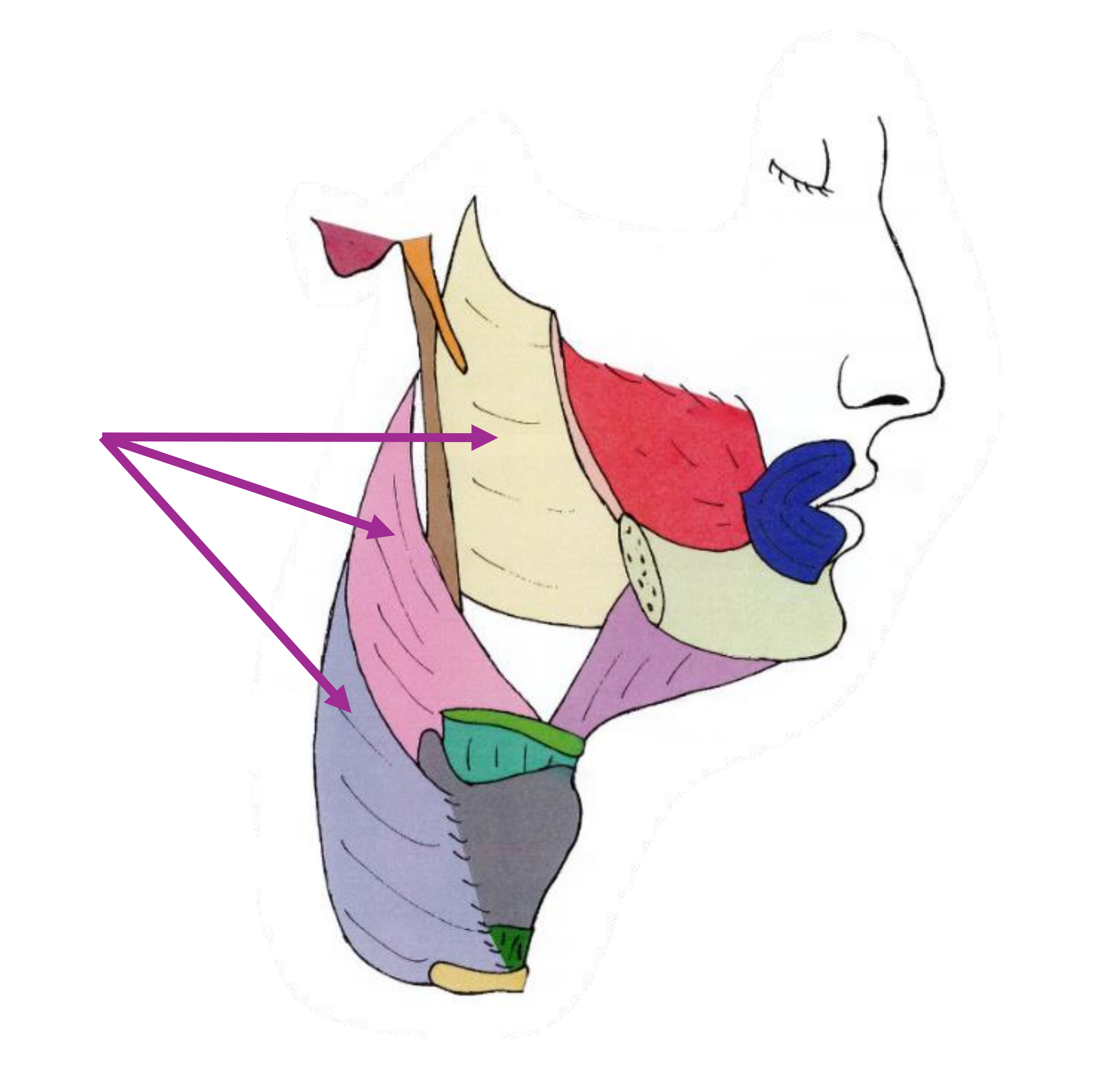
Stylopharyngeus

Origin: Styloid process

Insertion: Pharyngeal walls

Action: Elevates and widens the pharynx

Innervation: CN IX glossopharyngeal nerve



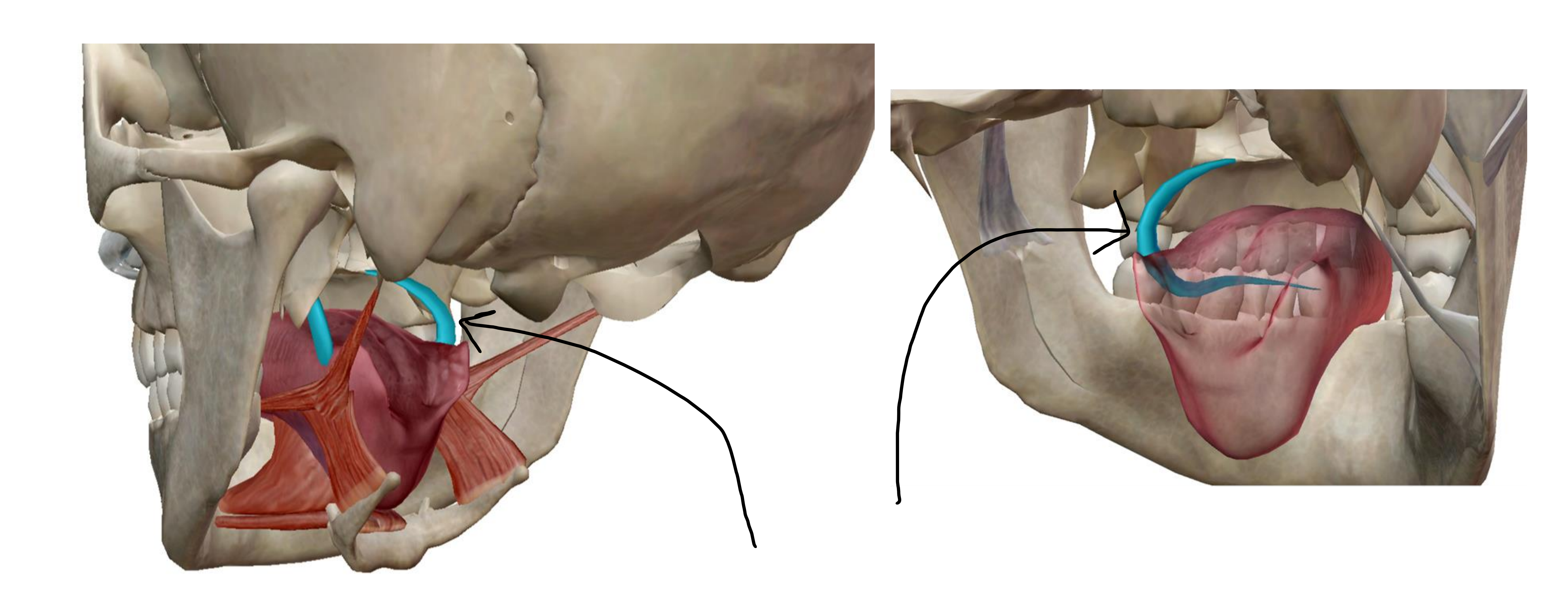
Pharyngeal Constrictors (Superior, Middle and Inferior)

Form the lateral and posterior walls of the pharynx

Action: Drive food into the esophagus when swallowing

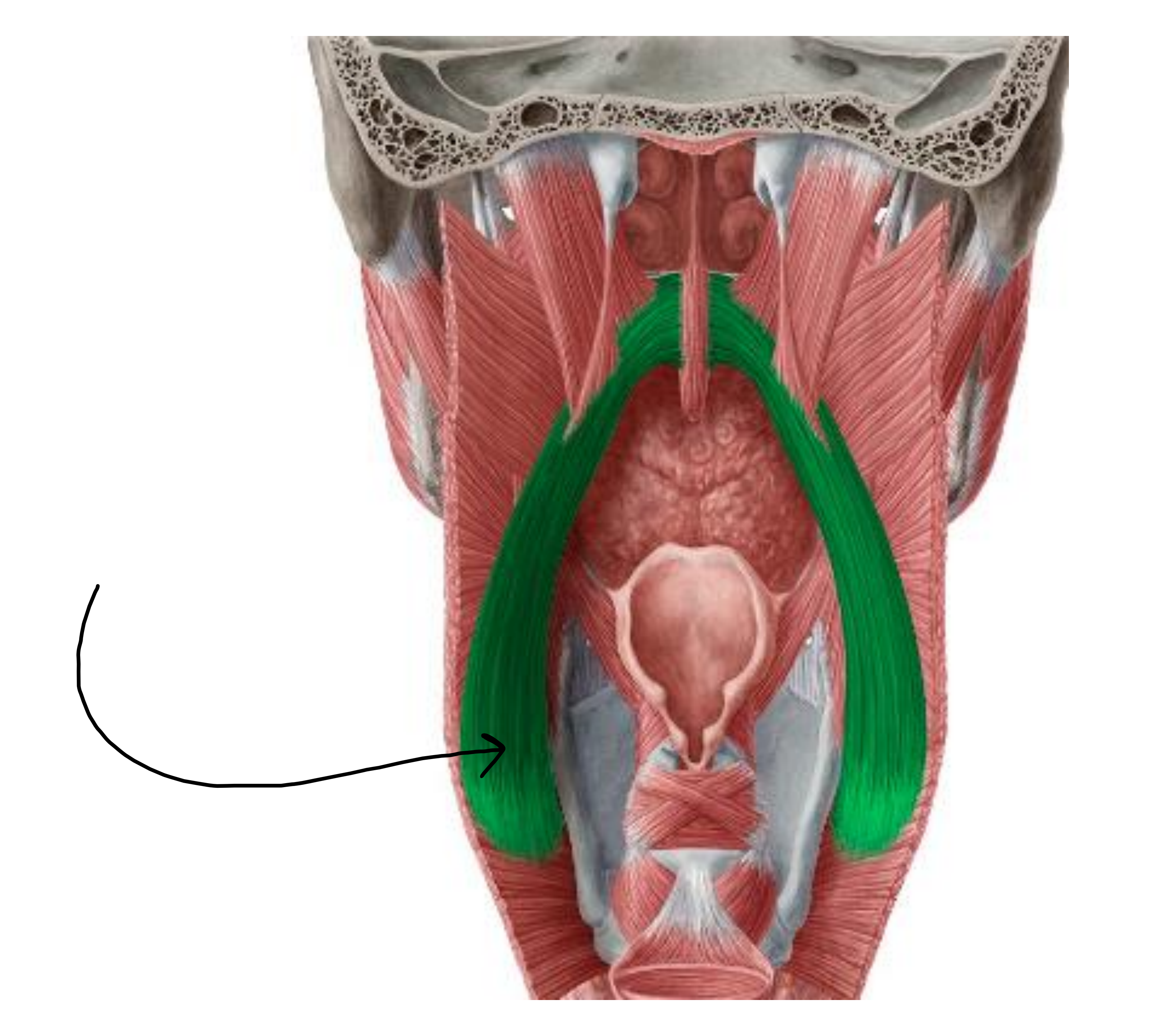
Innervated by the pharyngeal plexis

Muscles of the Soft Palate



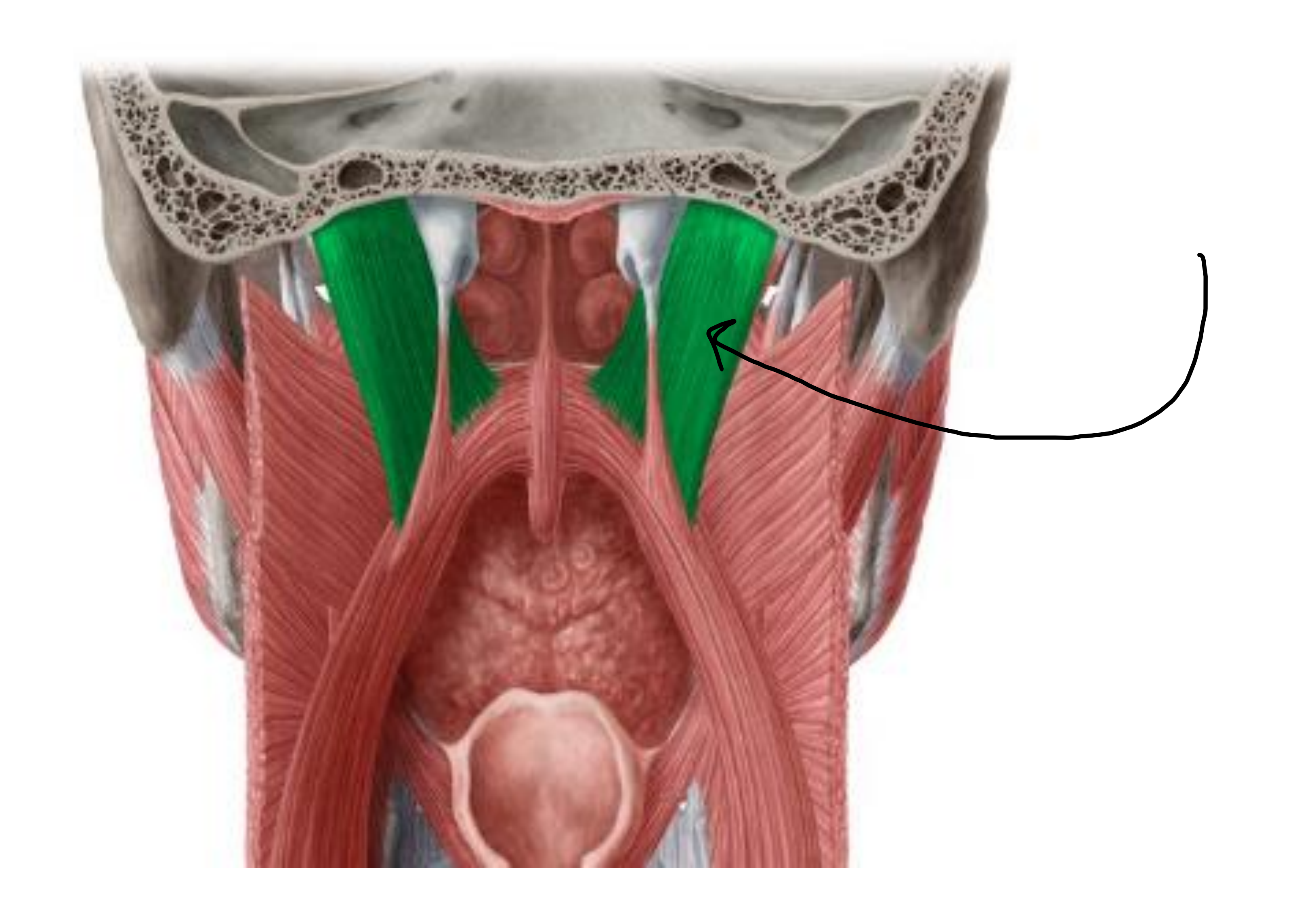
Palatoglossus

Makes the anterior faucial pillar



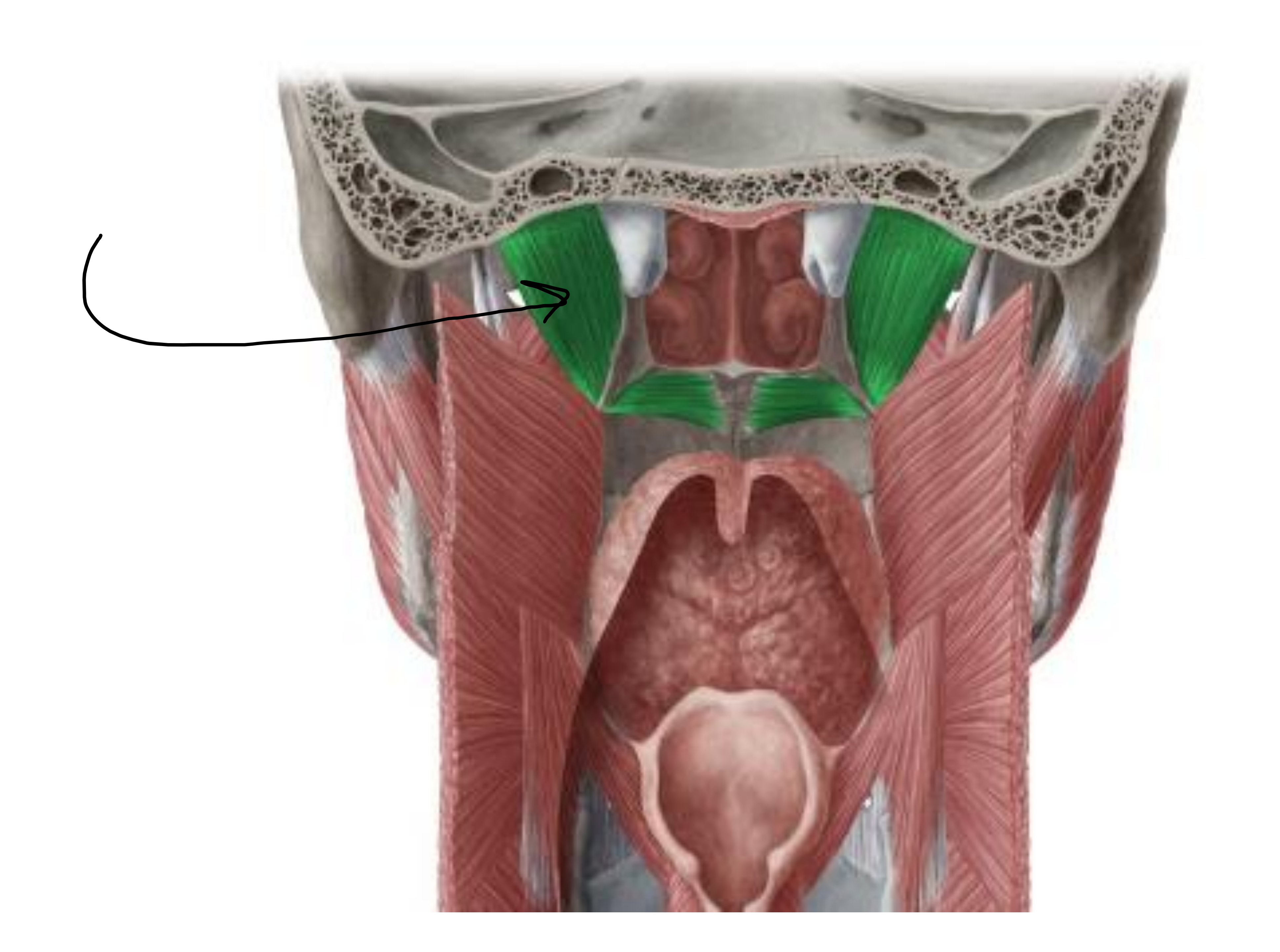
Palatopharyngeous

Makes the posterior faucial pillar



Levator Veli Palatini

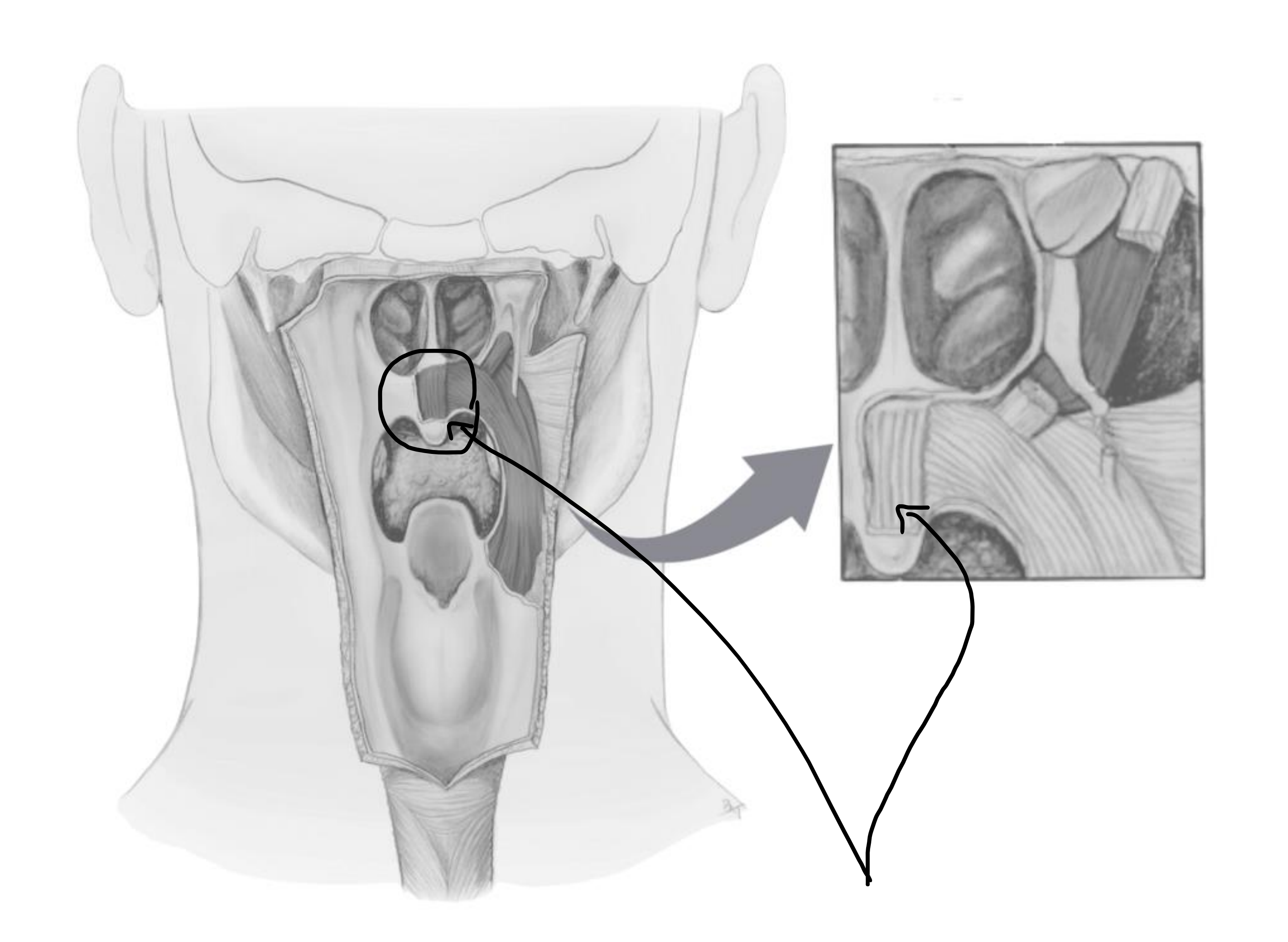
Action: elevates the soft palate and pulls it back (helps separate the oropharynx from the nasopharynx for swallowing)



Tensor Veli Palatini

Action: Tenses the soft palate

Innervated: CN V – Trigeminal



Uvula

Helps separate the oropharynx and nasopharynx when swallowing.